



Instream Flow Program to Hold Outreach Sessions on the Designated Ashuelot River

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Protection (NHDES) Instream Flow Program determines, through scientific investigation, the seasonal flows necessary to support habitat for fish and river-side vegetation as well as human uses in the state's Designated Rivers, *establishing* protected instream flow values based on these scientific investigations, and maintaining these protective flows during periods of low flow, such as the recent drought.

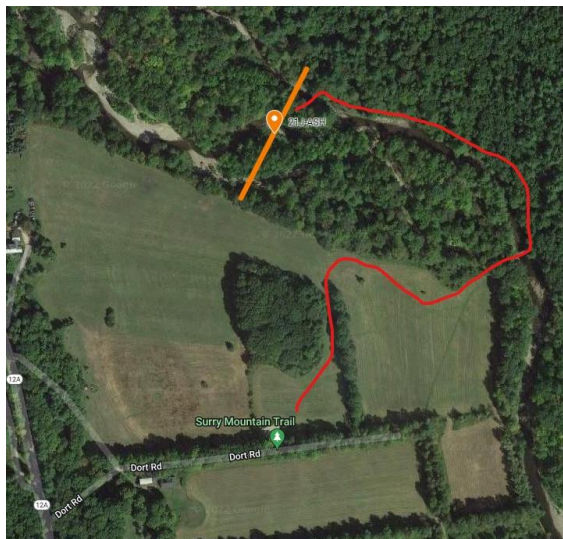
The Instream Flow Program is currently contracting a Protected Instream Flow Study of the Ashuelot River, in order to determine its appropriate instream flows. Concurrent with this study, baseline temperature, conductivity, and water level data are being collected along the 65-mile designated reach to document "baseline" conditions.

On May 17 and 18, 2022, Instream Flow Staff will be deploying a total of 22 dataloggers in the Ashuelot River, from Lempster to Hinsdale. On each of these days, the staff will be setting aside an hour (1:00-2:00 PM, rain or shine) to meet with people interested in the Ashuelot River, the program, and the ongoing study to join us during our deployment activities. We'll show you the equipment we use to collect the environmental data, some of the data collected during last year's work, and describe the program's approach to designated river protection. If you wish, you'll be able to follow the staff to a deployment location and observe the process.

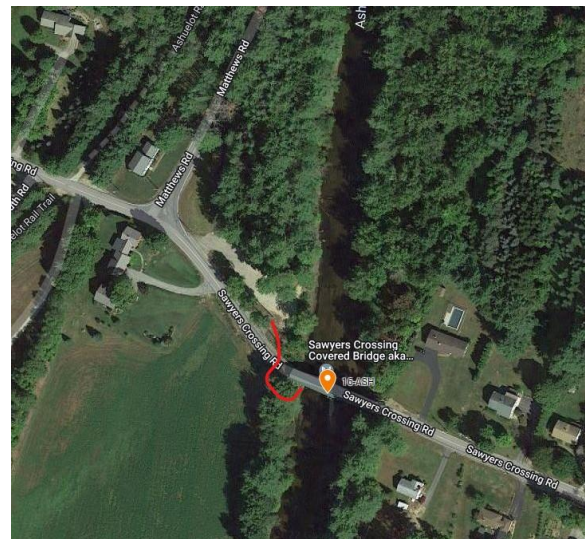
We think that students, teachers, environmentalists, river enthusiasts, and just about anyone else may enjoy learning how the scientific data required to develop plans to protect our state's rivers is collected.

Please join us!

Tuesday, May 17 at 1:00 PM: On the upper Ashuelot River at the USACoE Surry Mountain Trailhead parking area off Dort Road in Surry, NH. [Google Maps link.](#)



Wednesday, May 18 at 1:00 PM: On the lower Ashuelot River at the parking area on the west side of the Sawyer Crossing Road bridge in Swanzey, NH. [Google Maps Link.](#)



For more information, contact Joe Schmidl at [\(603\) 271-3280](tel:6032713280) or Joseph.Schmidl@des.nh.gov. Visit our [Instream Flow webpage](#) for further information.